Claims

- 1. A method of thickening liquid hydrocarbon fuel oils, the method comprising mixing the hydrocarbon with an essentially paraffin polyolefin polymer in solid form to yield a thickened homogenous liquid solution, characterised in that the liquid hydrocarbon comprises commercial kerosene having a flashpoint greater than or equal to 62°C and the polymer has a molecular weight in the range 1.4 to 2.0 x 10⁶.
- 2. A method according to claim 1, in which the kerosene has a concentration of 90 to <100% by weight and the polymer has a concentration of up to 5% by weight.
- 3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the polyolefin polymer comprises a medium or high molecular weight polymer of an alkene.
- 4. A method according to claim 3, in which the alkene comprises a branched chain alkene.
- 5. A composition of matter comprising a thickened homogenous liquid solution of an essentially paraffin polyolefin polymer in solid form dissolved in a liquid hydrocarbon fuel oil, characterised in that the liquid hydrocarbon comprises commercial kerosene having a flashpoint greater than or equal to 62°C and the polymer has a molecular weight in the range 1.4 to 2.0 x 10⁶.
- 6. A composition according to claim 5, in which the kerosene has a concentration of 90 to <100% by weight and the polymer has a concentration of up to 5% by weight.
- 7. A composition according to claim 5 or claim 6, in which the polyolefin polymer comprises a medium or high molecular weight polymer of an alkene.
- 8. A composition according to claim 7, in which the alkene comprises a branched chain alkene.
- 9. The use of a composition according to any of claims 5 to 8 as a barbecue lighting fuel.